

filed with the March 17, 2003 Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)) and claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

Although not objected to by the Examiner, the specification is amended to accurately reflect the changes made in the Appendix filed with the March 17, 2003 Amendment Under 37 C.F.R §1.111. No new matter has been added..

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

Claims 1, 7 and 11 are amended to accurately reflect the changes made in the Appendix filed with the March 17, 2003 Amendment Under 37 C.F.R §1.111. No new matter has been added.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over JP 093034082 to Ando et al. (hereinafter "Ando"); claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,822,846 to Moritan et al. (hereinafter "Moritan"); and claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ando. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ando does not disclose a sleeve which is press fitted and/or secured by adhesion into a hole formed in the substantially cylindrical portion of the flange body, and an annular recess on the outer peripheral surface of the hole formed in the substantially cylindrical portion of the flange body to relieve a press fitting force exerted to the plurality of grooves, as recited in claim 1.

The annular recess of the present invention is located on the peripheral surface of a flange body so as to relieve elastic/plastic deformation of a sleeve body by a press fitting

force onto the sleeve body when a sleeve is press-fitted into a hole. Thus, an accuracy of an inner diameter of the sleeve body can be prevented from a plastic deformation resulting in no deformation on the grooves 15 portion.

Additionally, the sleeve of the present invention is press fitted and/or secured by adhesion into a hole formed in the substantially cylindrical portion of the flange body so that the sleeve can also be light-press fitted into the hole of the flange body. Thus, assembly of the sleeve and the flange body is easier while the fitting strength of the sleeve onto the flange body can be equal and more secured than assembly by press fit only.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-3, 5, 7, 11-12 and 15-17, which depend from claim 1, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENTS:
Appendix

JAO:HNS/cfr

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